



58602

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

FEB 15 1984

Mr. Peter Obstler
Clean Water Action Project
Doane Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Peter:

As a result of questions I received from June De Barrios and other Fair Haven residents at the New Hampshire seminar, I asked for a report on the facts and circumstances regarding the health effects study and clean up in the Fair Haven-New Bedford area. Here, as far as I have been able to determine, are the facts:

1. Health Effects Study

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) have been working together to develop a health effects study for the Fair Haven-New Bedford area. The study plan is in final review at CDC. After this review by CDC, the study plan will be sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) headquarters for approval. The study will be conducted in two phases: the first, to select test subjects and analyze their blood for PCB levels; the second to identify subgroups from the test group, one with high PCB levels, the other with low levels, and examine the groups for differences in health effects. We expect the study to be completed within approximately two years.

2. Clean Up

The EPA and State of Massachusetts are pursuing various actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980:

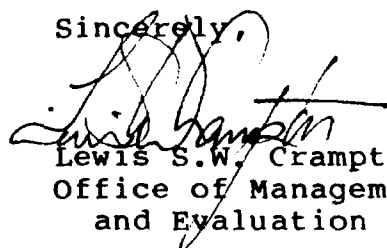
- ° In May 1983 - Consent decree orders were issued to Aerovox Corporation and Cornell-Dubilier Corporation. Cornell has completed the work required and Aerovox will complete its work by the end of April 1984.
- ° In September 1983 - A second administrative order was issued to Cornell to clean out specific sections of sewer. EPA is reviewing Cornell's work plan. This work should be completed by this summer.

- ° Also, in September 1983 - An administrative order was issued to the city of New Bedford to provide technical assistance and access to Cornell and conduct monitoring of the sewage treatment plant for at least one year.
- ° EPA is putting on a fast-track: 1) a feasibility study for a hot spot in the Acushnet River approximately one mile long. A draft for public comment should be available this spring; and 2) a search for dredge-disposal sites for the State.
- ° The field work for the remaining remedial investigations and feasibility studies should begin in March. These will cover the aquatic system and the upland locations.
- ° In a related effort, because we suspect approximately 30 sites where dredge-spoils have been used in landfills, EPA will conduct an areawide groundwater survey.

I hope this addresses your concerns. I understand that the Southeastern Health Project, which is a subgroup of your organization, has been invited to a public meeting which will be conducted by our Boston office on March 8. I hope you or a representative will be able to attend.

Please call me if you have general questions regarding our clean up efforts. Specific technical questions can be addressed to Jerry Sotolongo (617-223-1951) in our regional office.

Sincerely,


Lewis S.W. Crampton, Director
Office of Management Systems
and Evaluation

cc: Jerry Sotolongo